

DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS  
FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/  
AIDS**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of an important development in medicine that is taking place in my district—the manufacture of a new generation of HIV therapy. This complex, breakthrough therapy, called Fuzeon, generic name enfurvitide, is the drug formerly known as “T-20” Fuzeon is a new drug that attacks HIV in a new way, promising new hope for patients who have exhausted other therapies. Fuzeon is the product of groundbreaking medical research and cutting edge engineering and is an example of how the private sector is contributing to dramatic advances in healthcare and specifically in helping to manage the most devastating infectious epidemic in the recorded history of mankind.

In July, Fuzeon clinical trial results were presented at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, the world's largest HIV/AIDS meeting. These studies included over a thousand patients with advanced HIV who demonstrated resistance to a majority of currently available HIV treatments and were nearing the end of their treatment options. These study results showed that Fuzeon had a significant impact in reducing HIV viral load and improving immune response in these difficult to treat patients. Fuzeon, once approved by the Food and Drug Administration, could be commercially available as soon as early 2003.

At present, there are 800,000–900,000 people living with HIV in the United States. Innovative HIV therapies, taken in combination “drug cocktails,” have allowed many of these individuals to live relatively healthy, productive lives. However, HIV is a formidable virus that can adapt to become resistant to existing treatments and is doing so. In fact, one of the biggest challenges facing people living with HIV today is an emerging resistance to currently available treatments. Fifty-one percent of AIDS patients are immune to at least two of the three available classes of therapies thereby severely limiting the treatment options available to them. Fourteen percent are resistant to all three classes and are left with no way to control the advancement of their disease. These patients are in desperate need of new options.

That is why Hoffmann-La Roche, the pharmaceutical company that introduced the world's first protease inhibitor and the first HIV viral load test, has partnered with the biotech company Trimeris Inc., a leader in HIV innovation, to develop and manufacture Fuzeon—a new generation of HIV therapy. Fuzeon will help to address the urgent and unmet needs of HIV/AIDS patients who have built up resistance to current therapies. This internationally anticipated and complex drug will be manufactured right here in the United States—in Boulder, Colorado. It requires the creation of one of the most complex drug manufacturing processes ever undertaken because the drug is far more intricate in its structure and development than any existing drug.

Roche and Trimeris are investing considerable resources to bring new therapies to peo-

ple living with HIV/AIDS. The importance of these discoveries and developments cannot be stressed enough. Breakthrough biotechnology advances in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS, produce vital life-saving alternatives for patients living with HIV. What these companies have learned from developing state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities for Fuzeon will also improve our nation's ability to develop and manufacture new therapies for other diseases.

The public sector has a role to play as well. I call upon my fellow colleagues to support funding of vital and fiscally prudent public programs that provide access to life-saving treatments such as Fuzeon. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides federal contributions to state run programs designed to provide innovative, life saving HIV drugs to low income, uninsured people living with HIV. I ask my House colleagues to include an increase of \$162 million for ADAP funding in the House Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for FY 2003. Many states are experiencing budget problems, and demand is outpacing available resources for ADAP programs. From 1996 to 2001, the number of clients served nationally by ADAP programs has grown by 144 percent, with expenditures on drugs increasing by over 300 percent, and funding levels increasing at smaller rates. In my own state of Colorado, the ADAP has provided life saving HIV treatments to over 1,300 low income, uninsured people to date this year. Like other ADAPs, the Colorado program needs to respond to the increasing number of individuals seeking access to these treatments.

With this recommended increase in funding, we offer a real helping hand, send a message that the federal government encourages private investment in groundbreaking research, and meet our fiscal objectives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BILLY C.  
HAWKINS**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Billy C. Hawkins upon his inauguration as the Twentieth President of Texas College, in Tyler, Texas, on September 20, 2002. Dr. Hawkins has proven himself as a dynamic and courageous leader, and has already instituted tremendous change at Texas College since he became President on December 1, 2000. Dr. Hawkins has secured accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for Texas College, developed a single parent program, developed an accelerated degree program, and helped to greatly increase enrollment at Texas College. These accomplishments portray the dedication and success of Dr. Hawkins. I work closely with Dr. Hawkins and I am proud to honor him on the occasion of his Investiture Ceremony as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

Dr. Billy C. Hawkins is a native of Kent, Ohio and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He was a great football player in high school and at 21 years of age, he became the youngest head football coach in Michigan history. He enrolled at Ferris State University where

he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Teacher Education. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Central Michigan University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Michigan State University in Education Administration. In preparation for becoming a college president, Dr. Hawkins completed the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents.

Dr. Hawkins' achievements and experiences have well-prepared him for his current position as President of Texas College. He served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Mississippi Valley State University from March 1, 1999 to November 31, 2000, as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia from September 1995 to February 1999, as Acting Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean/Full Professor in the College of Education at Ferris State University from 1985 to August 1995, and as Director of Educational Opportunity Program at the State University of New York at Morrisville College, Morrisville, New York from 1981 to 1985. Dr. Hawkins has authored two books—“Educating All Students (A Pathway to Success)” and “Reaching for the Stars.” He has been featured on national television and at regional and national conferences to discuss our nation's special education system.

Dr. Hawkins is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. In January 1999, he received appointment as a member of the Southside Virginia Business and Education Commission by former Governor James S. Gilmore, III, of Virginia. In August 2002, Dr. Hawkins was nominated by Secretary Ronald Paige of the United States Department of Education to serve on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board to advise Congress regarding program progress for implementing construction financing on HBCU campuses. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, the Tyler Economic Development Council, the Boys and Girls Club of Smith County, and the United Way. He is the proud father of two children, son Billy Jr. and daughter Marilana.

In closing, I want to share what his good friend Mr. Darrell Green, of the Washington Redskins football team, has this to say about him: “Dr. Billy Hawkins is a true leader in every sense of the word, and most importantly, my lifelong friend.” Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor Dr. Billy C. Hawkins today as he is officially inaugurated as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA  
FOUNDATION**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Foundation on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. The Foundation has greatly enriched the Santa Barbara community as a whole and many organizations have greatly benefited from its generosity.

In 1928 Major Max Fleischmann made the initial contribution to the Foundation that has